
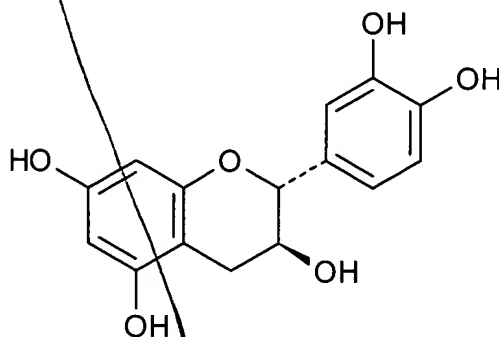


Please insert the following new claims:

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-- 5. A method for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions in a human in need thereof which comprises applying to the skin of the human a therapeutically effect amount of a catechin, a gallic ester of a catechin, or mixtures thereof. --

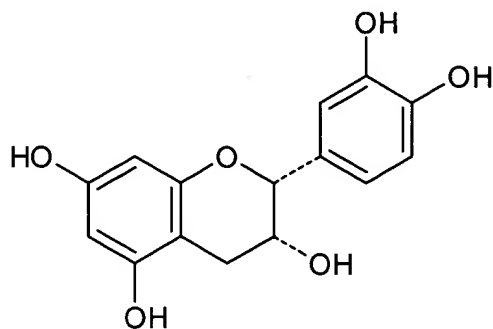
-- 6. The method for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions according to Claim 5, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin are selected from the group consisting of (-)-catechin, (+)-catechin, (-)-catechin gallate, (-)-gallocatechin gallate, (+)-epicatechin, (-)-epicatechin, (-)-epicatechin gallate, (-)-epigallocatechin, and (-)-epigallocatechin gallate. --

-- 7. The method for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions according to Claim 5, wherein the catechin is



or a gallic ester thereof. --

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-- 8. The method for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions according to Claim 5, wherein the catechin is



or a gallic ester thereof. --

-- 9. A method for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions according to Claim 5, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin is obtained from a plant. --

-- 10. A method for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions according to Claim 9, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin is obtained from a plant from the *Theaceae* plant family. --

-- 11. A method for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions according to Claim 9, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin is obtained from the plant species *Camellia sinensis*. --

-- 12. A method for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions in a human in need thereof which comprises applying to the skin of the human a therapeutically effective amount of an extract from a plant or plant parts which comprises a catechin, a gallic ester of a catechin, or mixtures thereof. --

-- 13. A composition for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions in a human in need thereof which comprises

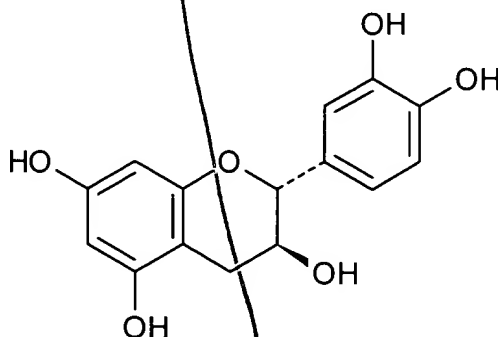
- a) a therapeutically effective amount of an extract from a plant or plant parts which comprises a catechin, a gallic ester of a catechin, or mixtures thereof, and
b) a carrier. --

-- 14. A composition for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions in a human comprising

- a) a therapeutically effective amount of a catechin, gallic ester of a catechin, or mixture thereof, and
b) a carrier. --

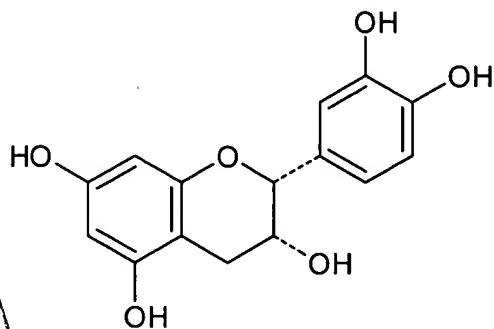
-- 15. The composition for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions according to Claim 14, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin are selected from the group consisting of (-)-catechin, (+)-catechin, (-)-catechin gallate, (-)-gallocatechin gallate, (+)-epicatechin, (-)-epicatechin, (-)-epicatechin gallate, (-)-epigallocatechin, and (-)-epigallocatechin gallate. --

-- 16. The composition for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions according to Claim 14, wherein the catechin is



or a gallic ester thereof. --

-- 17. The composition for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions according to Claim 14, wherein the catechin is



or a gallic ester thereof. --

-- 18. A composition for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions according to Claim 14, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin is extracted from a plant. --

-- 19. A composition for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions according to Claim 18, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin is obtained from a plant from the *Theaceae* plant family. --

-- 20. A composition for the prophylaxis, treatment, and/or care of dry skin conditions according to Claim 18, wherein the catechin or gallic ester of a catechin is obtained from the plant species *Camellia sinensis*. --

-- 21. The composition according to Claim 14, wherein the amount of catechin, gallic ester of a catechin, or mixture thereof comprises 0.0001 to 20 percent by weight of the total composition. --

-- 22. The composition according to Claim 14, wherein the amount of catechin, gallic ester of a catechin, or mixture thereof comprises 0.001 to 10% by weight of the total composition. --

-- 23. The composition according to Claim 14, wherein the amount of catechin, gallic ester of a catechin, or mixtures thereof comprises 0.01 to 1% by weight of the total composition. --

-- 24. The composition according to Claim 14, which further optionally comprises caffeine, vitamins, sugars, minerals, amino acids, lipids, or mixtures thereof. --

-- 25. The composition according to Claim 14, which is contained in an inert environment. --

-- 26. A method for strengthening the lipid barrier and/or increasing the synthesis rate of ceramide of human skin in a human in need thereof that comprises applying to the skin of a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effect amount of the composition according to Claim 13. --

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the instant amendment requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.